

**Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2013**

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee held a meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2013 in the Bethany Beach Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Cathy Davis; Vickie Drury; Laren Hughes; Jan Kinsella; Theo Loppatto; Mary Lou McNeerney; Mary Lou Urquhart; and Margaret Young.

Also present: Lindsey Good, Administrative Secretary.

Call to Order

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from September 17, 2013 Meeting

After one amendment, Ms. Loppatto made a motion to approve the minutes dated September 17, 2013. The motion was seconded by Ms. Davis and unanimously approved.

Announcements

Ms. Olmstead reported the following:

- New members, Kathy Davis and Vickie Drury were introduced to the Committee members. They were welcomed to the Committee.
- The Cultural Event that took place on October 29th, which featured speaker Tom Ryan who gave a presentation on the “Wives of Generals of the Civil War”, was a great success. There was a total of eighty-seven (87) attendees.
- A miniature replica of the totem pole “Chief Owl” sculpture that is located in front of the Town Hall was donated to the Town by Mr. and Mrs. Ciciliano. It was carved by the original artist of the Chief Owl totem pole, Peter Toth, and titled “Whispering Giants”. The Committee can consider displaying it in the Town’s Museum. Ms. Olmstead will obtain more information on the sculpture and report back to the Committee.

Discussion Regarding Delaware Historical Society 150th Anniversary

Ms. Olmstead explained that she has been in contact with a planner of the Delaware Historical Society’s 150th Anniversary event, but there is still not too much information available on it. It is taking place on February 1st, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at a venue in Wilmington, Delaware. It is a Black Tie event and will cost \$125 per person.

Ms. Loppatto questioned if there is a group membership fee. Ms. Olmstead replied that the Committee can join as an institution.

Once there is more information available, Ms. Olmstead will provide it to the members.

Update on News Articles Album

Ms. Olmstead reported that she, Ms. Kinsella and Ms. Urquhart have been meeting every Monday and working hard to complete the news articles album. The album contains interesting historical articles that are sorted by date.

Ms. Olmstead will provide an update on all of the current projects at the next meeting.

Discussion Regarding Museum and Docents

Ms. Olmstead expressed that the Museum did not have many visitors while docents were present during closed business hours (Sundays from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.). The Committee determined that it is not necessary to continue having docents volunteer at the Museum.

The following suggestions were made to help promote the Museum:

- Ms. Hughes suggested creating a video to provide information about the Museum to display on the kiosk.
- Ms. Loppatto made a suggestion to hold specific events at the Town Hall, which would entice interest in the Museum from those that attend the event.
- Ms. Hughes recommended that the Committee establish an online blog linked to the Town's website, or a separate website, to provide information to the public and encourage visitors to share their experiences of the Museum. She will present a sample blog at the next meeting. Ms. Olmstead asked that the Committee members think of topics that can be posted on the blog.

Other Discussion

- Ms. Olmstead advised that the Committee needs to focus on ongoing projects at the next meeting.
- Ms. Olmstead showed the members a copy of the proof of the "Taking Flight" sculpture that was donated by the Worthington family and is displayed in the park next to the Town Hall. The plaque display is being amended.
- Ms. Olmstead distributed contact information for all of the members and the current Purpose Statement for CHAC. She asked that the members review it and it will be included as a discussion item on the agenda for the next meeting.

Oral History Video Review

Ms. Olmstead stated that the Oral History Project has been ongoing for a couple of years, and expressed that Ms. Hughes has been doing a great job on it since she took over the responsibility of completing it.

Ms. Hughes presented to the Committee what she has completed so far. She explained that she had to re-create what she had already done because she is now using an upgraded program to produce the video. She noted that she still needs to obtain additional photos to include in the video. She will have the first disc completed by the next meeting for the Committee to review.

Set Date for Future Meetings

Future CHAC meetings will be scheduled on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. There will not be a meeting in December and the next meeting is scheduled for January 14th at 2:00 p.m.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lindsey Good, Admin. Secretary